

REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action mailed on July 25, 2006.

Claims 1-17 are pending in the patent application. Claims 1-13 had been previously withdrawn.

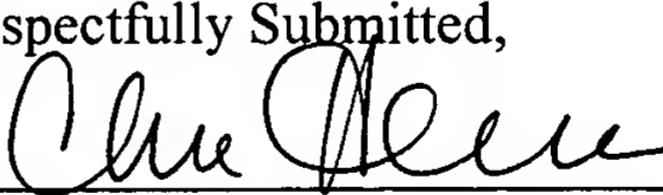
No new matter has been added by this response.

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,878,470 to Kawamura et al. ("Kawamura"). In the Applicant's previous response, Applicant stated that *Kawamura* was not prior art to the claimed invention under § 102(e) because the earliest filing date of Applicant's invention, which is the filing date of priority document of Japanese Application No. 2002-227222 filed on August 5, 2002, pre-dates the filing date of *Kawamura*. In the Final Office Action, the Patent Office states that Applicant cannot rely on the filing date of the foreign prior art document because a translation of the document has not been made of record. Applicant, therefore, has submitted an English translation of Japanese Application No. 2002-227222 with this response.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14 and 16, in addition to allowed claims 15 and 17, are patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 14 and 16 be deemed allowable at this time that that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 9-19-06


Christopher S. Hermanson

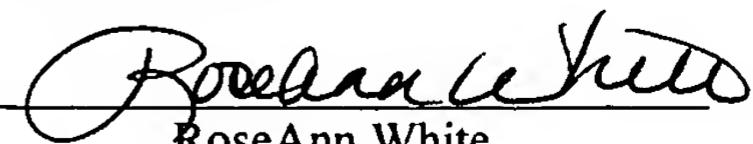
Reg. No. 48,244

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 9-19-06


RoseAnn White